To

THE RECTOR, CHURCH WARDENS AND VESTRYMEN OF CHRIST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

The petition of the "DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE", respectfully represents:

1. That it is a society formed by and whose membership is composed of lineal descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, hereinafter referred to as the Signers.

2. That one of the objects for which the said society was formed is to perpetuate the memory of the Signers.

3. That the principal meeting place of this society is Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

4. That the following are the present officers of the society:

President: W. Gordon McCabe, of Richmond, Va. First Vice President: Russell Duane, of Philadelphia, Pa. Second Vice President: Charles Thornton Adams, of New York, N. Y. Third Vice President: Mrs. Warren T. Fisher, of Philadelphia, Pa. Secretary: Carl Magee Kneass, of Philadelphia, Pa. Treasurer: John S. Braxton, of Philadelphia, Pa.

5. That in carrying out the object for which this society was formed, it has made investigations in regard to the burial places of the Signers, and has found that the location of the graves of a number of them is unknown. That among these are the graves of GEORGE ROSS, a Signer for Pennsylvania; of FRANCIS HOPKINSON, a Signer for New

Jersey, and of JOSEPH HEWES, a Signer for North Carolina.

6. That, as your petitioner is informed and believes, the three Signers hereinbefore referred to are buried in Christ Church or its Churchyard, but the inscriptionson their gravestones have been obliterated, and the location of their graves is uncertain.

7. That it appears from statements made in a book entitled "Record of the Inscriptions on the Tablets and Grave-Stones in the Burial Grounds of Christ Church, Philadelphia", compiled by one of its Church Wardens, between December 4th, 1861, and September 7th, 1864, and published in 1864, that PEYTON RANDOLPH, the first President of the Continental Congress, was buried there on the 24th day of October, 1775; that FRANCIS HOPKINSON, one of the most distinguished patriots of the Revolution, was interred there on the 11th day of May, 1791; also that BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN FORBES was interred in the chancel of Christ Church in 1759; but that their graves were unmarked and the location of them unknown.

8. That, as your petitioner is informed and believes, it appears from the burial records of Christ Church that GEORGE ROSS, (who was one of the Signers for Pennsylvania, and who died in Philadelphia on July 10th, 1779,) was buried in the Churchyard of Christ Church on July 15th, 1779. And that it also appears from said burial records that JOSEPH HEWES, (who was one of the Signers for North Carolina, and who died in Philadelphia on November 10th, 1779,) was interred in said Christ Church on November 11th, 1779.

9. That, as your petitioner is informed and believes,

it appears from the said book of records of inscriptions that all of the graves in the Churchyard of Christ Church have been identified with but three exceptions, viz. those numbered 2, 3 and 25 on the Ground Plan of Christ Church and Yard, the inscriptions on the stones numbered 2 and 3 being entirely obliterated and there being nothing but a verse on numbef 25.

10. That as your petitioner is informed and believes, it appears from the said book of records of inscriptions that all of the graves within the Church edifice have been identified with but three exceptions, viz. those numbered 42, 44 and 53 on the Ground Plan of Christ Church and Yard, the inscriptions on the stones of all of these graves having long ago been entirely obliterated.

11. That, as your petitioner is informed and believes, it appears from the said book of records of inscriptions that REV. NATHANIEL EVANS, a former rector of Christ Church was buried therein in the year 1767, and that the location of his grave is unknown, although supposed to be either under said stones numbered 42 or 44, the other probably marking the grave of the wife of Dr. Jenney, another former rector of said Church, whose grave is marked by stone number 43.

12. That, as your petitioner is informed and believes, the remains of two of the three Signers for North Carolina were, in 1894, removed to Guilford Battle Ground Park, North Carolina, and a granite monument erected to their memory, the inscription thereon being as follows:

"In memoriam Wm. Hooper and John Penn, delegates from North Carolina 1776 to the Continental Congress, and

signers of the Declaration of Independence. Their remains were re-interred here 1894. Hewes' grave is lost, he was the third signer."

13. Your petitioner is informed and believes that the said JOSEPH HEWES left no descendants. It had caused inquiries to be made of descendants of GEORGE ROSS and FRANCIS HOPKINSON, in regard to the exact location of the places of burial of their ancestors, but without avail

14. Your petitioner believes that if an examination is made of the graves numbered 2, 3, 25 and 53 on the Ground Plan of Christ Church and Yard, the location of the burial places of some of the Signers above named may be determined, either from the coffin plates or other markings.

15. Your petitioner is willing to assist in any investigation which may be made to determine the burial places of the three Signers hereinbefore referred to, and to contribute to the expense of such investigation.

WHEREFORE, your petitioner prays that the authorities of Christ Church, Philadelphia, will cause an examination to be made of the unmarked graves referred to in the foregoing petition, for the purpose of determining, if possible, the identity of the persons whose remains are buried in said graves, or that they will allow such examination to be made by your petitioner or its duly appointed representatives, upon such conditions and subject to such supervision as the authorities of said Church and of the City of Philadelphia may impose and require.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, your petitioner has caused its name to be hereunto subscribed by its President, and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed by its Secretary, this day of 1918.

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,

by W. Gordall Teller

President.

Attest: Clarence Kremer

Secretary.